

Dompo language

Dompo is an endangered language of Ghana. Speakers are shifting to Nafaanra. It is spoken adjacent to the main town of the Nafaanra people, namely Banda, Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana. Blench (2015) reports that it is spoken by 10 households.

Classification

Dompo has numerous parallels with the Gonja language, but according to Blench (1999) does not appear to be directly related to it. Blench suggests three possibilities:

- it is a Gonja dialect that has come under heavy external influence;
- it is a related Guang language that has been relexified, largely from Gonja;
- it is of some other source, and relexified, largely from Gonja.

None of the Dompo names for wild plants or animals resemble Gonja, suggesting that the last is the most likely. Some Dompo animal names show resemblances with Mpra.^[3]

However, Gueldemann (2018) finds the Guang/Gonja connection to be overwhelming:

[Blench's] conclusion is hard to understand after a superficial comparison of his data with published Gonja material. The specific similarities to this Guang language, many of which Blench fails to identify and which include all available numerals and pronouns, are so numerous and diagnostic that the classificatory assessment in the *Ethnologue* [an North Guang] is the most plausible hypothesis.

References

- Dompo (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/doy/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Dompo" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/domp1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- Blench, Roger (2007) *Recovering data on Mpra [=Mpre] a possible language isolate in North-Central Ghana* (<http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/projets/clhass/PageWeb/ressources/Isolats/Mpra%20%20Blench%202007.pdf>)
- Blench, Roger. 1999. *Recent Field Work in Ghana: Report on Dompo and a note on Mpre* (<http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/projets/clhass/PageWeb/ressources/Isolats/Dompo%20Blench1999%20.pdf>).
- Blench, Roger. 2015. *The Dompo language of Central Ghana and its affinities* (<http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/Kwa/Dompo%20Wordlist.pdf>).

Dompo	
Native to	Ghana
Ethnicity	970 (2000) ^[1]
Native speakers	65 (1999) ^[1]
Language family	possibly Guang
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	doy
Glottolog	domp1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/domp1238) ^[2]

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